

pears to link two important and otherwise distinct features of scleroderma: constriction of small blood vessels and overproduction of collagen. Blood vessels of patients with scleroderma commonly contract for extended periods of time, thereby reducing the flow of oxygen to vital body parts and damaging their ability to function normally. This finding and others offer new opportunities to develop more effective treatments for scleroderma. Today, many dedicated men and women are working together through governmental, scientific, and voluntary health organizations to seize such opportunities. Their efforts are grounds for hope.

In order to enhance public understanding of scleroderma and to emphasize the need for continuing research, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 445, has designated June 1992 as "National Scleroderma Awareness Month" and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 1992 as National Scleroderma Awareness Month. I encourage all appropriate government agencies and the people of the United States—in particular, members of the media and the scientific and health care communities—to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that will enhance public awareness of scleroderma and the importance of research on this disease.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-third day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6452 of June 30, 1992

National Spina Bifida Awareness Month, 1992

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Approximately one of every 1,000 newborns in the United States is affected by spina bifida, a serious and often debilitating neurological disorder. Spina bifida occurs when a baby's spinal cord develops abnormally while he or she is still in the womb, resulting in nerve damage that can lead to muscle paralysis, loss of sensation in the lower limbs, and bowel and bladder complications. The disorder is often accompanied by hydrocephalus, an excessive and potentially dangerous accumulation of fluid within the brain. While in the past the prognosis was grim for children with spina bifida, currently some 80–90 percent of affected children survive the disorder, thanks to advances in surgery and other forms of intervention and treatment. Heartened by the progress that we have made thus far, our nation remains firmly committed to the fight against spina bifida.

Through the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and through the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the Federal Government is working to find better treatments

and, ultimately, a cure for spina bifida. Government researchers have been joined in their efforts by physicians and scientists throughout the private sector and by a number of voluntary health associations. In addition to supporting basic and clinical research, many of these associations also work to promote public awareness of spina bifida while providing assistance to patients and their families. This month, we recognize all of the dedicated professionals and volunteers who are striving to overcome spina bifida, and we reaffirm our support of their efforts.

The Congress, by House Joint Resolution 470, has designated September 1992 as "National Spina Bifida Awareness Month" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this month.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 1992 as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month. I encourage all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 30 day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6453 of June 30, 1992

**National Awareness Week for Lifesaving Techniques,
1992**

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Prompt, effective assistance can mean the difference between life and death for victims of accidents and other emergencies, which is why each of us should be prepared to respond accordingly. Citizens who have knowledge of and training in lifesaving techniques such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the control of bleeding and shock can play a vital role in providing needed first aid during the critical minutes before professional help is available.

The National Center for Health Statistics reports that in 1989, the most recent year for which final figures are available, 296 out of every 100,000 deaths in the United States were caused by heart disease. More than 4,000 Americans died from drowning and submersion, and 3,578 of our citizens either suffocated or choked to death. A significant number of these tragic deaths could have been prevented if bystanders were trained in basic lifesaving techniques taught by the American Red Cross, the Young Men's and Women's Christian Associations, the American Heart Association, and other national and local organizations. Indeed, it is estimated that the help of knowledgeable bystanders could save as many as 50 percent of those injured, compared to accidents and emergencies in which care is unavailable until medical personnel arrive on the scene.